

A reverse for Wycombe in the second half

Sports Mail Special Report

WITH Clapton reduced to ten men after an early injury to their inside left, Norcott, Wycombe Wanderers were three goals up in little more than half an hour in their Isthmian League game at High Wycombe, but a second-half rally by Clapton enabled them to share the points.

Wycombe Wanderers: Brown, Beck, Lewis, Thomas, Fisher, Gale, Worley, James, Hay, Howson, Horseman.

Clapton: Locker, Wilkinson, Vichion, Amas, Hill, Belchamber, Bussell, Heywood, Vibert, Norcott, Pope.

Referee: E. Ruck (St. Albans).

To replace Blair, who was down with flu, Wycombe brought back James, but he was injured in the first few minutes and continued limping at inside right.

The Wycombe attack, however, moved fluently in spite of the treacherous surface of the rain-soaked pitch and one fine run by Horseman spelled danger for Clapton.

But Howson's final shot was blocked by the closely-covering Clapton defence.

TWO HURT

Play was held up for a time when Gale and the Clapton inside left, Norcott, were knocked out in a head-on collision and Norcott was taken off for attention.

Clapton, however, continued

to claim a fair share of the play, and against a sound defence the Wycombe forwards relied largely on speculative long-range shots.

The turning point came after 25 minutes when Wycombe claimed three goals in seven minutes.

Clever work by Thomas and Howson enabled HAY to open the scoring and a few minutes later JAMES was on the spot to head in a second from a well-placed centre by Worley.

Well on top now, Wycombe increased their lead three minutes later when JAMES, now fully recovered from his early injury, scored with a long-range shot from a pass by Fisher.

When Clapton hit back, VIBERT reduced their arrears five minutes before half-time from a pass by outside left Pope.

Half-time: Wycombe Wanderers 3, Clapton 1.

Within three minutes of the restart Clapton, still with only ten men, were on level terms after a series of tearaway at-

tacks which took the Wycombe defence by surprise.

Right winger BUSSELL got the first from a pass by Heywood after several Wycombe players had pulled up for an injury to Thomas, and two minutes later HEYWOOD equalised after Brown had stopped but failed to hold a centre from Bussell.

Wycombe claimed more of the play subsequently but Clapton packed their goal with sometimes virtually the whole team making a defensive barrier.

The injured Norcott returned to the field 20 minutes before the end but a few minutes later goalkeeper Locker was also injured in saving from Beck who ran half the length of the field to get in his shot.

The goalkeeper was taken off with an injury to his arm and left half Belchamber took his place in goal.

A few minutes later, however, Locker was able to return to the field, playing in the forward line.

Attacking strongly in the last few minutes, Wycombe were unlucky not to score in several goalmouth scrambles and Belchamber made several plucky saves.

RESULT:

WYCOMBE WANDERERS 3
CLAPTON 3